

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Takeo TANAAMI, et al.**

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **March 18, 2002**

For: **BIOCHIP READER**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 18, 2002

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fees of the above application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 15 as follows:

15. (Amended) A biochip reader in accordance with claim 12 or 13, wherein a zoom mechanism for changing the light intensity distribution of excitation light from said light source corresponding to expression of genes on said biochip, is provided.